

Of the marine and estuary species, I find:—common to India,  
 Africa, and the Malay Archipelago... 5  
 Africa only ..... 1  
 Malay archipelago ..... 30  
 India only ..... 35

Acanthopterygian forms of freshwater fishes in India are most numerous in maritime districts, next in the deltas of large rivers, whilst they decrease as we proceed far inland. The Himalayas appear to be their boundary; but on some of the lower ranges the ubiquitous *Ophiocephalus gachua* manages to exist. It is remarkable, however, that the family having the widest distribution is that of the amphibious *Ophiocephalidæ*, whilst it also is the one in which true spines are the least developed.

I propose deferring my general remarks until after the completion of my analysis of the remaining orders of the freshwater fishes, which must be done by following out the range of each individual species. By such means only can we fairly consider it proved whether the African or Malayan fish-fauna most predominates in India: it will show us distinctly the relationship of Ceylon to Southern India; and likewise by such the former continuity between India and the Andamans and Nicobars may be proved or disproved.



Description of a new Hornbill from the Island of Panay. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Senior Assistant, Zoological Department, British Museum.

[Read December 21, 1876.]

IN my paper on the birds of the Philippine Islands, which the Society is about to publish in the 'Transactions,' I have noticed an apparently new species of Hornbill from the Island of Panay; but as Mr. Elliot is at the present time engaged on a Monograph of this family of birds (*Bucerotidæ*), I have permitted him to figure this interesting species; and as it is possible that the part of his Monograph containing a description of the bird may appear before my own memoir in the 'Linnean Transactions,' I think it but due to Professor Steere, myself, and the Society, herewith to furnish a short description.

Professor Steere has given me the following notes respecting its habits:—"I shot this Hornbill on the highest ridge of the

mountains west of Ilo-Ilo. This is the only place where any of the virgin forest is left; and there alone I saw these birds. They were not very rare; but I could only get a single specimen, as they flew so high in the trees that my gun could scarcely reach them."

Although closely allied to *C. cassidix*, it differs in several particulars, as will be seen by the following description. General colour above and below greenish black; wings uniform with back; tail black for the basal third, fulvous or light chestnut for the remainder, with a tolerably broad greenish band; head and neck all round dark chestnut, inclining to fulvous above the eye and on the ear-coverts; bill red, the casque deeply grooved.

This interesting bird I propose to call *Craniorrhinus waldeni*, after Lord Walden (The Marquis of Tweeddale), who has, by his excellent memoir on the ornithology of the Philippine Islands, rendered the study of these birds an easier task than could possibly have been the case three years ago.

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On the Habits of Hornbills, being extract of a letter by Dr. JOHN ANDERSON, F.L.S., Indian Museum, Calcutta, to Dr. J. MURIE.

[Read December 21, 1876.]

Indian Museum, Calcutta,

November 24, 1876.

IN the Zoological Gardens here we have two Hornbills of generic distinctness, *Hydrocissa albirostris* and *Aceros subruficollis*, Blyth. The other morning, on visiting the aviary in which these birds are kept, I was astonished to find the *Aceros subruficollis* tossing about and catching with its bill a specimen of the Little Lorieet, *Loriculus vernalis*, which it ultimately swallowed head foremost. Since then I have had this bird regularly given one Sparrow a day, which it takes with evident *gusto*. The way in which it tosses the bird about, passing it through its bill from side to side, from the head to the feet, seems to me to indicate that it does so to break the bones. It even goes carefully over each leg of the bird to be swallowed; and the dexterity with which it pitches the bird about without letting it fall is truly remarkable. The bird having undergone sufficient tossing and bill-crushing, is then swallowed head foremost.